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Daily Highlights

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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Opening World Social Summit, Secretary-General calls for new global social contract to bring hope to nations and to men and women around world; urges countries to rethink notion of collective social responsibility.

+ Social Summit elects Danish Prime Minister as President; moves to complete negotiations on Draft Declaration and Programme of Action.

+ Secretary-General to recommend deferral of UNAVEM III infantry deployment unless Angolan parties comply with Security Council conditions by 25 March.

+ Administrative and Budgetary Committee recommends appropriation of $40 million for liquidation of ONUMOZ.

+ UNPROFOR protests continued obstruction by Bosnian Serbs of medical supply deliveries to enclaves in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ Assembly of Seabed Authority elects 4 Vice-Presidents and appoints 9 to Credentials Committee; also appoints working group to finalize rules of procedure.

+ African Ministers begin 3-day meeting to review ratification of environment conventions and agreements in region.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has called for a new social contract at the global level to bring hope to States, nations and men and women around the world. Opening the World Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen Monday, the Secretary-General said the international community should send a message that it was taking a clear stand against social injustice, exclusion and poverty around the world.

Real economic progress was impossible without progress in the social sphere, the Secretary-General said. Today's global economy affected everyone

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and its affects were not all positive. It eroded traditional ties of solidarity among individuals, it marginalized entire countries and regions and the gap between the rich and the poor had widened. The international community must therefore rethink the notion of collective social responsibility.

The Secretary-General said as the United Nations celebrated its fiftieth anniversary, it should ask some searching questions about its record, including how seriously it had taken its Charter commitments to promote "the economic and social advancement of all peoples". In making social issues a universal priority, the intention was to take responsibility for the collective future of international society and to pledge anew to the ideal of global solidarity.

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The Prime Minister of Denmark, Poul Nyrup Rasmussen was elected President of the World Summit for Social Development at its opening session today. Mr. Rasmussen described the Summit as only the beginning of a new global process. Noting that its true significance would be measured by what happened at the Summit's conclusion, he urged delegates to transform hopes into action. The gathering was an historical occasion, which would give the international community the chance to share a common vision on how to solve the world's social problems. Those problems were so big and complex that they called for new solutions, alliances and values, he said.

Meanwhile, the Main Committee, under the chairmanship of Ambassador Juan Samavia of Chile, has begun final negotiations on its draft declaration and programme of action. The committee expects to produce a finalized text in all official United Nations languages by the time the Heads of State and Government meet on 11 March. Delegates will consider the Summit's central issues -- the eradication of poverty, promotion of productive employment and the elimination of social exclusion -- in plenary meetings.

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Unless the Angolan parties had complied by 25 March with Security Council conditions for the deployment of United Nations Angolan Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) infantry units, the Secretary-General would recommend their deployment be deferred. In his first progress report on UNAVEM III dated 5 March, Dr. Boutros-Ghali noted that the Angolan conflict and the lessons learned from other peace-keeping operations had led the Council to adopt a new approach. It had agreed to his proposal to link the actual deployment of the bulk of UNAVEM III to the parties' prior implementation of certain specific commitments they had made under the Lusaka Protocol.

The Secretary-General said it would be difficult to justify deploying the infantry units unless essential initial tasks had been carried out including: an effective cease-fire; the full disengagement of Government and the Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) forces; the setting up of verification mechanisms; reliable communication links between the parties and

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UNAVEM; and the early start of de-mining. Realistic and practical arrangements for integrating UNITA troops into the national army should be reached without delay, the Secretary-General said. President dos Santos and Mr. Savimbi should hold their agreed meeting soon, to give a much needed impetus to the peace process, the Secretary-General said.

The UN's involvement in numerous, extensive, complex conflicts was seriously taxing its limited resources, the Secretary-General noted. Parties who asked for the Organization's assistance must be prepared to help the international community help them. In the meantime, displaced persons needed significant assistance, and land-mines were a serious impediment to the movement of goods and people, as well as the resumption of agricultural activity. The capacity of humanitarian agencies to deal with those problems and contribute to the demobilization and reintegration of former combatants depended on the donor community's prompt funding of the 1995 Inter-agency appeal for the Angola.

Meanwile, six persons involved in de-mining activities for a non-governmental organization, have been found dead in Angola, according to a United Nations spokesman. Those killed, one German and 5 Angolans, were believed to have been the victims of an armed attack. Members of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM) are investigating the killings.

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The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) has recommended that the General Assembly appropriate $40 million gross for the liquidation of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ). By the terms of a draft resolution approved Friday, the authorization will cover the period 16 November 1994 to 31 March 1995. The amount would include a commitment authority of $25 million authorized under an earlier Assembly resolution and would be apportioned in accordance with the terms established under various resolutions cited in the text.

The Fifth committee also recommended that the Assembly approve the apportionment among Member states of their respective shares of the estimated staff assessment income of $946,700 in the Tax Equalization Fund. In addition, the unencumbered balance of nearly $4.5 million covering the period 1 November 1993 to 30 April 1994, would also be apportioned among Member States.

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The United Nation Protection Force (UNPROFOR) commander in Bosnia and Herzegovina, General Rupert Smith met outside Sarajevo Sunday with Bosnian Serb military leader Slobodan Milosevic to discuss the deteriorating situation in the eastern enclaves. A UN spokesman said that UNPROFOR's resupply efforts in those enclaves have been hampered by Bosnian Serbs, although one convoy did get through to a Dutch battalion in Srebrenica.

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Meanwhile, Special Representative Yasushi Akashi sent a letter over the weekend to Bosnian Serb leader Dr. Radovan Karadzic concerning the obstruction of medical supply deliveries to the enclaves. Mr. Akashi said the situation, which had been going on since last November, placed the civilian population, particularly vulnerable groups, in intolerable and degrading conditions. The obstruction of medical resupplies to the UN troops was also unacceptable. He reminded Dr. Karadzic that the actions by Bosnian Serbs were contrary to the Geneva Conventions and were a violation of international humanitarian law, which would be subject to investigation by the War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague.

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The Assembly of the International Seabed Authority has elected 4 vice-presidents and appointed 9 members to its Credentials Committee. Meeting in Kingston, Jamaica, Friday the Assembly has also appointed 10 members of a working group assigned to develop the Assembly's rules of procedure.

The Vice-Presidents are from Algeria, Mexico, the Russian Federation and Canada. They represent all the regional groups, except for Asia, which holds the Presidency of the Assembly. Mr. Hasjim Djalal (Indonesia) was elected President on 28 February.

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Environmental ministers and senior legal officials from 15 eastern and southern African countries began meeting in Nairobi Monday, to review issues affecting the ratification by African nations of environment Conventions and Agreements relevant to the region. The three-day meeting was convened by the African Ministerial Conference on Environment and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and will be attended by representatives of relevant UN agencies and subregional organizations.

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